

## 1.3 American Records

People are amazed and amused by records like the highest mountain, the longest fingernails, or the most spoons balanced on a face. What you have learned so far can help you make comparisons. In Problem 1.3, you will compare the largest living trees of different species.

### Did You Know?

The champion white “Wye” oak tree near Wye Mills, Maryland, was about 460 years old when it fell during a thunderstorm in 2002. When the tree fell, thousands came by to gawk, shed tears, and pick up a leaf or a twig. Maryland officials carefully gathered and stored as much of the tree as they could until a suitable use could be found.

The challenge to find a white oak bigger than the Wye Mills tree launched the National Register of Big Trees. The search led to the discovery of a new national champion white oak in Virginia.



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You can describe the size of a tree by comparing it to other trees or familiar things.

### Selected Champion Trees

Tree Type	Circumference (ft)	Height (ft)	Spread/Diameter (ft)
Giant Sequoia (Calif.)	83.2	275	107
Coast Redwood (Calif.)	79.2	321	80
Swamp Chestnut Oak (Tenn.)	23.0	105	216
Florida Crossopetalum (Fla.)	0.4	11	3
White Oak (Md.)	31.8	96	119

SOURCE: *Washington Post*

### Problem 1.3 Writing Comparison Statements

A. Use the table on the previous page.

1. How many coast redwood spreads does it take to equal the spread of the white oak?
2. Kenning says that the spread of the white oak is greater than that of the coast redwood by a ratio of about 3 to 2. Is he correct? Explain.
3. Mary says the difference between the heights of the coast redwood and the giant sequoia is 46 feet. Is she correct? Explain.
4. How many giant sequoia spreads does it take to equal the spread of the swamp chestnut oak?
5. Jaime says the spread of the giant sequoia is less than 50% of the spread of the swamp chestnut oak. Is he correct?
6. Len says the circumference of the swamp chestnut oak is about three fourths the circumference of the white oak. Is he correct?



B. The tallest person in history, according to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, was Robert Wadlow. He was nearly 9 feet tall. Write two statements comparing Wadlow to the trees in the table. Use fractions, ratios, percents, or differences.

C. Average waist, height, and arm-span measurements for a small group of adult men are given.

Waist = 32 inches      Height = 72 inches      Arm Span = 73 inches

Write two statements comparing the data on these men to the trees in the table. Use fractions, ratios, percents, or differences.

D. When a problem requires comparison of counts or measurements, how do you decide whether to use differences, ratios, fractions, or percents?

**ACE** Homework starts on page 10.